

South African (Azania*ⁿ) workers experience of globalisation

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Module prepared for the University of Ottawa –
undergraduate research students
20 May 2008 @ University of KwaZulu-Natal,
CCS/SDS Seminar room, eThekweni

*Name referring to a liberated state of the country from a covert/overt foreign rule.

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- Background
- Five eras:- Earlier state formations
 - : The pre-industrial era - the formative years, rise of King Shaka;
 - : The subjugation years - the emergence of a colonial state and the reworking of ethnic id's;
 - : The rise of segregation and “retribalisation” – i.e. 1920 Native Affairs Act and the 1927 Native Administration Act, territorial segregation - a system of “decentralized despotism”;
 - : The Bantustan policies - 1951 Bantu Authorities Act); and
 - : new government inherit colonial tribal structures.
- ▶ The current living conditions of workers – dispossessed majority: land, poverty, working environment, unemployment, living conditions – i.e. the access to services such as energy
- ▶ Community experience and their responses

Introduction

- Purpose:-

- ***Ethiocentric school approach*** (*beyond Afrocentrism*) – *ancient schools – Sankore in Mali and Spain – scholars i.e. Imhotep, Origen*

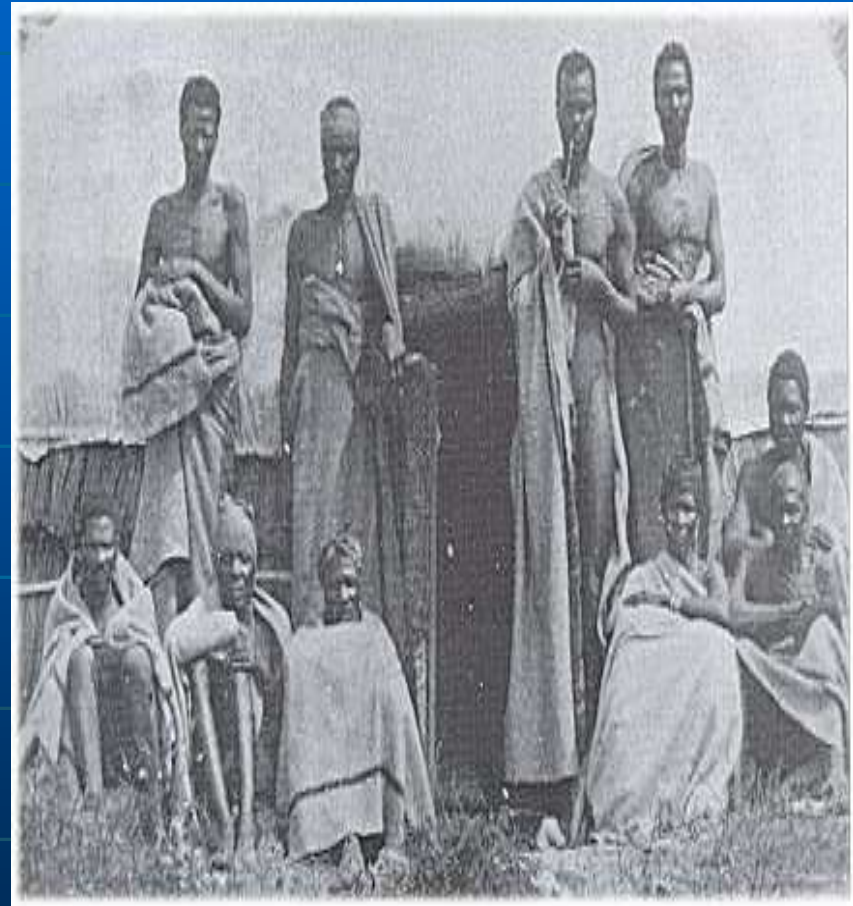
- To attempt to understand in brief the historical socio-political development of South Africa and facilitating the labour reserves – i.e. bantustans- rural and township/economic development;
- briefly scrutinise the historical emergence of industrialisation and its impact towards the development of the indigenes in the country;
- to understand the realities of the apartheid aftermath - workers experience in the face of the globalised South Africa ; and
- to scrutinise the popular responses – civil societies dissent and activists

Background: *pre industrial era*

- **Globalisation and ancient Africa:** ancient Ethiopian empire – India, Mongolia, Americas – theocracy and serpent rule-will of men (Icke, 2001)
- **the historical socio –political development** - traditional leadership form part of *communal* - owned property collectively, work is done in collective and goods were shared out equally (Jack and Johnson, 1995:57); operated under the auspices of “*ubuntu*” that is guided by the *theocratic principles* and values; leadership style - religion and family ties (Rodney, 1973: 22; Fuze, 1979:9-11 & 90);
- **the origin of African people** in this south part of the whole continent - Africa- Israelites that believed and live theocratically values – refers to the rule of people-by-people for the Creator. For example, the Ngoni such as Zulu, Pedi, Swazi, and Xhosa people (Jeremiah 2:3) i. e. the First Fruit ceremony, circumcision school – young men are taught life skills – adulthood (Fuze, 1979)
- **Ancient , yesterday & today Ethiopia/Africa experience colonisation:** - started to shrink around 2000BC(Icke, 2001). Influences: **First - western colonisation process** - that is mostly known as the *scramble for Africa*, which started as early as 1700 Before Christ Era (BCE) - Roman persecution of **ancient Christians theocratic order** and later centuries it was consolidated in 1800s in Berlin Conference on November 15, 1884(Rosenberg, 2008).
- Second – **Arabian theocratic colonisation process**– As from 640 AD, Arab settlers Arab hordes desperate ,hungry for plunder and greener pastures charged out of Arabia, flying the flag of their new religion, islam, and conquered Egypt by 642 that led to the colonisation of north Africa as it is today (Agyeman, 1994; Chinweizu, 2006)
- **Africa south - Azania experience** -the Dutch settlers -1600s the colonisation programme , altered the Africa subsistence society further, started another bitter war for land dispossession/*alienation*- first experienced in the Cape between the Dutch, British, and then Natal between Zulus and the Dutch and the British (Wrong, 1946; Callinicos, 1990).

Colonisation Era

- **Ancient Ethiopia/Africa:**
- late nineteenth century: south of Africa - *British and Dutch colonisers participated in **bartering exchange trade***, traders began to demand *money* (thus the introduction of *monetary system*) - goods (Terreblanche, 2002: 155; Callinicos, 1990: 2; Giddens, 1971:162; Rodney, 1973:18);
- **Monetary system** (Weber) vital role for values exchanged in quantitative and fixed rather than in subjective terms (Giddens, 1971:164; Wrong, 1946:376);



Colonisation Era- *Cont.*

- ***Passing of legislations*** i.e. of Pass Laws (1760)- Cape, and in 1809 and eventually to all South Africa and forcing (through policies and imprisonment – see across picture showing some of the Kings next to the structure of the Robben Island prison) Indigenous people to live in one place and must possess pass (Callinicos, 1990).
- ***Forced labour*** - through land dispossession (primitive accumulation) – i.e. Land Act 1913
- ***Formation of labour reserves*** – townships and rural –traditional areas led to informal settlements
- ***Wars of resistance*** – formation of social movements from Marcus Mosiah Garvey – Universal Negro Improvement Association - UNIA to ANC, PAC & BCM , i.e. – Anti Pass Campaign, workers strikes
- ***Led to negotiation/ political settlement*** – CODESA and 1994 elections:

Migration patterns: *apartheid era & after*

[*The circle of poverty in the reserves*- Source: Callinicos, 1990]



THE CIRCLE OF POVERTY IN THE RESERVES

1. The men leave home to work as migrants in the towns and mines outside the reserves
2. Women and old people look after the land.
3. The land gets poorer.
4. Families start buying their food and clothes. Factories in the towns send manufactured goods to trading stores in the reserves.
5. The family rely more and more on money for their daily needs.

Post 1994 – today (*Ethiopian/African 2000 Millennium*) : “Mandela era & democratisation process”

- **Negotiated political settlement** -Sunset Clause guarantee stolen property, redistribution – i.e. willing buyer; willing seller, restitution and land claims
- **Reserves Retained:** impoverished rural areas former bantustans and squashed townships – informal settlements and govt subsidised houses – ridiculous RDP (
- **Adoption of Neoliberal policies** – encouraged less govt expenditure and lean administration led to privatisation of state assets and retrenchment of workers (Desai, 2002)
- **Unemployment**- 40%
- Shortage of skills – highly debated issue
- **Migration** – increased within Africa and mostly to Europe expatriate – more than 40%, skilled people – i.e. doctors, nurses and teachers - ratio of 3:1 (Mail & Guardian, 9-15/5/08,p3)
- **Lack of service delivery** – proper housing except match box house- one roomed house, water, electricity (based on old racial divide)
- **Increasing civil society dissent** – debates about current civil society dissent that have been reported in various information nodes:
- **Ethiopian/African Millennium: views concerning political settlements in Africa :**
 - **first view** celebrate a miracle & a perfect example; **second view** suggest a neo colonisation and its consolidation tactics: - competition for power and dictatorship of new world orders – *democracy vs Islamic theocracy*
 - Western world dictatorship: democratic experience – Europe and its colonies- WESTERN WORLD GLOBALISATION EUPHORIA & ITS COLONIES (Mthembu, 2007)
 - Arabian world dictatorship – Islam and Sharia law experience - i.e. whilst others parts of Africa such as Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, just to mention few – ARABS QUEST FOR LEBENRAUM IN AFRICA (Agyeman, 1994; Chinweizu, 2006) and
- ▶ **SOUTH AFRICAN UNEMPLOYED WORKERS TELL THEIR EXPERIENCE THROUGH** a 15 minutes documentary titled:- **Abasebenzi eWyatt Road/ Workers at Wyatt Road**